

Attorney Docket No. LEAP:128US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/811,346
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2007
Date: July 12, 2007

Remarks

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-13 and 15-21 are allowed. Applicants graciously acknowledge the Examiner's determination.

The Rejection of Claims 22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,616,517 (*Esmay*) in view of United States Patent No. 5,684,627 (*Ganser et al.*). Applicants have cancelled Claims 22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32-36 thereby render this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is appropriate and respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

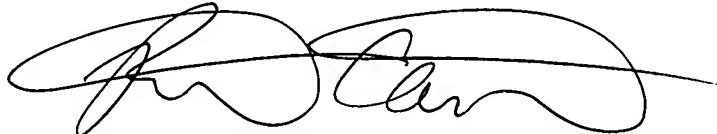
Claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Esmay* in view of *Ganser et al.* as applied to Claims 22 and 27 above, and further in view of United States Patent No. 4,158,216 (*Bigelow*). Applicants have cancelled Claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 thereby render this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is appropriate and respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Atkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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